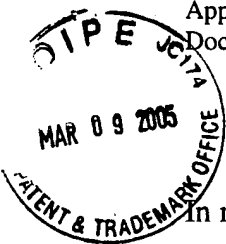


*[Handwritten signature]*



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Stephan POULIN, *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: 3673  
)  
Application No.: 10/751,468 ) Examiner: Fredrick C. CONLEY  
)  
Filed: January 6, 2004 )

For: SIDE RAIL, HOSPITAL BED INCLUDING THE SAME, METHOD OF OPERATING  
ASSOCIATED THERETO AND KIT FOR ASSEMBLING THE SIDE RAIL

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Customer Window  
Mail Stop Non-fee Amendment  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Alexandria, VA 22202

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 12, 2005, having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire April 12, 2005. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.